

Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAJ-01

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /081 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5450

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, IC

SUBJECT:TIMINN EDITOR ATTACKS BASE HIRING PRACTICES

1. IN EDITORIAL JUNE 29, TIMINN EDITOR AND ALTHING FOREIGN RELATIONS CHAIRMAN THORARINN THORARINSSON ATTACKED THE US-MANNED NATO BASE FOR ITS "SELF-HELP" PROJECTS. AFTER REVIEWING US-GOI AGREEMENT OF LAST OCTOBER HE EMPHASIZED PROVISION FOR "A REDUCTION OF THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE DEFENSE FORCE IN SUCH A WAY THAT ICELANDERS WOULD TAKE OVER VARIOUS JOBS WHICH WERE NOT OF A MILITARY NATURE BUT WHICH THE DEFENSE FORCE OR FOREIGN EMPLOYEES HAD DONE PREVIOUSLY." THORARINSSON THEN SAID,

"IT IS GREAT IMPORTANCE THAT THE CARRYING OUT OF THIS AGREEMENT GOES SMOOTHLY. OTHERWISE IT COULD LEAD TO DISPUTES AND FRICTIONS WITH UNFORESEEABLE CONSEQUENCES. THEREFORE, IT IS BAD NEWS WE GET NOW FROM KEFLAVIK AIRPORT TO THE EFFECT THAT SUPERIORS IN THE DEFENSE FORCE ARE LETTING THE MILITARY PERSONNEL PERFORM VARIOUS TASKS WHICH WERE PREVIOUSLY PERFORMED BY ICELANDERS OR WHICH IT WOULD BE NATURAL UNCLASSIFIED

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FOR THEM TO PERFORM. THIS IS CAUSING SOME DISSATIS-

FACTION ON THE SOUTHERN PENINSULA, SINCE THESE ARE
JOBS WHICH COULD PROVIDE SUMMER EMPLOYMENT FOR YOUTHS
WHO HAVE DIFFICULTIES AT PRESENT IN GETTING WORK.
THE PROPER PARTIES WILL HAVE TO WORK AT SOLVING SUCH
PROBLEMS WITHOUT FRICITON. IF TOLERABLE RELATIONS ARE
TO CONTINUE, IT IS NECESSARY TO WORK AT CARRYING OUT
THE PROVISIONS OF THIS AGREEMENT. ANYTHING ELSE
COULD BRING UNFORESEEABLE CONSEQUENCES."

2. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THORARINSSON'S EDITORIAL IS CLEARLY
BASED ON MISINFORMATION, IT INDICATES LABOR UNION HENCE
PUBLIC AND POLITICAL CONCERN OVER THE SENSITIVE ISSUE OF
MILITARY PERSONNEL PERFORMING NON-MILITARY PUBLIC WORKS
FUNCTIONS DURING A PERIOD OF UNEMPLOYMENT. THE EMBASSY
AND IDF ARE TAKING STEPS TO MAKE THE FACTS ABOUT EMPLOY-
MENT AT THE BASE KNOWN SINCE MFA HAS APPARENTLY FAILED
TO EXPLAIN THE SITUATION.
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